instead of before the mast, and that the different watches should have separate sleeping-quarters. Regulations were also made to ensure better lighting and ventilation.

RUSSIAN BIRTH-RATES

THE completed figures of the census taken on Jan. 17, 1939, include the entire population of the Soviet Union except of the far north, where a census will be taken later this year. The population was 170,467,186 (81,664,981 males and 88,802,205 females), which represents an increase in twelve years of 23,439,271, or 15·9 per cent. During the same period the population of all other countries in Europe is estimated to have risen by 32 million, or 8·7 per cent. The urban population of the U.S.S.R. has increased by 112 per cent. in these twelve years, being now 32·8 per cent. of the total. The average annual increase of population in the U.S.S.R. has been 1·23 per cent., and recent birth-rates in various large cities are compared as follows :—

	Total births	Average births per 1000 population
Moscow (1938) ..	117,200	28·5
Leningrad (1938) ..	83,800	27·4
Kiev (1938) ..	22,500	27·4
Kharkov (1938) ..	22,400	27·7
Baku (1938)	26,900	33·9
Berlin (1936).. ..	59,500	14·1
London (1936) ..	56,300	13·6
Paris (1936)	32,500	11·5
New York (1936) ..	99,400	13·5

The population of Moscow has increased from 2,029,425 in 1926 to 4,137,018 in 1939 (103·9 per cent.) and that of Leningrad from 1,690,065 in 1926 to 3,191,304 in 1939 (88·8 per cent.).

ELIZABETH GARRETT ANDERSON

LIVES of great women oft remind us that footprints left in the sands of time are partly dug in by the biographer, or at any rate receive definition from his hand. The choice of a biographer is therefore important. No woman, and so far only one man, has inspired a biographer to make a life study of his subject, but in the last few years two women at least have been heroines to their daughters—Marie Curie and Elizabeth Garrett Anderson. It is impossible to read the second of these two biographies without thinking of the first, not because they are alike, but because they are so predictably different in subject and treatment. In the exceptional mind of Marie Curie the mathematician worked with the theorist, a leaping imagination was governed by a passion for fact. Her daughter told her story with the same vigour of imagination and the same devoted accuracy, and the book is filled with moving enthusiasm. Elizabeth Garrett Anderson was a great woman of a totally different stamp, a practical politician whose foremost interest was not science but the determination to free women to study science, or anything else they chose. She was a first-class doctor because it was her business as a pioneer to be good at her job ; she was an excellent committee woman because the liberation of women had to be achieved through the tedium of committee work. Her story is told with order, quiet humour and restraint by a daughter who has followed her in the profession which she helped to open to women. Dr. Louisa Garrett Anderson's book [1] reads like an extremely interesting report, illustrated with quotations from letters and speeches. The early chapters are narrative but later when it is convenient to isolate a series of events they are put in a separate chapter which may cover a period of many years. This treatment helps to disentangle the complex warfare waged by Elizabeth Garrett Anderson in the course of her long life ; and has the effect of snapshotting her on her various battlefields. One impressive little picture of the kind shows her appealing to the British Medical Association to admit women. Her speech was a masterpiece of calm and honourable argument, without one petty plea in it. It was characteristic of the prejudice against which she strove that "one member after another rose and protested that they were charmed and any action they might take would be entirely on the principles involved" ; the meeting then voted against her. In Central Europe today women are being forced back into the position from which Elizabeth Garrett Anderson and her contemporaries extricated English women less than fifty years ago. This book shows by what labour and patience their status will have to be won back.

1. Elizabeth Garrett Anderson. By Louisa Garrett Anderson. London: Faber and Faber. 1939. Pp. 338. 10s. 6d.

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dioxide to the inspired air not only increases the efficacy of artificial respiration but improves the post-experimental condition of the animal. For some reason which is not well understood, the carbon-dioxide content of the blood falls after a preliminary rise, and if this tendency is enhanced by hyper-ventilation—e.g., by allowing the animal to breathe occasionally during a period of asphyxia—the condition of acarbia becomes pronounced. In accidental drowning the struggles of the victim may bring him intermittently to the surface and closely simulate this state of affairs. Carbon dioxide, therefore, supplies a deficiency as well as stimulating the respiratory centre.[4] The only other aid to resuscitation which was found useful is a tracheal catheter to counteract spasm of the glottis. It is noteworthy that whereas complete asphyxia for 5 min. was fatal to these dogs, relief from respiratory obstruction for 5 sec. out of every minute was sufficient to keep them alive for at least half an hour. The time-relations in this experiment may be slightly abnormal on account of the anæsthetic, but the striking difference made by even [illegible] lands point to so-

two of Wise's series being adults of 43 and 25 years. The onset is usually more subacute than acute, with abdominal discomfort mainly felt in the right lower quadrant of the abdomen, and sometimes nausea and vomiting. Tenderness is slight, with little or no muscle-guarding, and there is no uniformity in the white-cell count or in the type of pyrexia. Such a case is likely to be diagnosed as appendicitis, and it is a comfort for the surgeon who operates to know that if he finds only lymphadenitis removal of the appendix may still result in cure.

GOITRE IN TIPPERARY

WORKING with a grant from the Irish Medical Research Council, Dr. M. Naughten and Dr. J. C. Shee describe[1] a survey of the occurrence of goitre in the Galtee and Slievenamon areas of co. Tipperary where this disease has long been known to be endemic. The survey has consisted of measurements of thyroid enlargement in children of five age-groups between 4 and 14 years, 1000 children of each sex being included. The results are in accordance with those of previous studies of the kind in so far as the age-incidence of goitre is concerned. They show, however, the surprising fact that thyroid enlargement in this region is equally prevalent (total incidence about 65 per cent.) in boys and girls—an observation which conflicts with the accepted view that in goitrous regions the incidence of the disease is three or four times as high among girls as among boys. It may be presumed that this local endemic is the result of local environmental iodine deficiency; it would be interesting to know whether this supposition is supported by the results of iodine analyses of the soil, water and milk-supply of the district.

THE WATCH BELOW

ON July 1 will come into force an agreement reached by a joint committee set up by the Shipping Federation, the National Union of Seamen, and the mercantile officers' societies, and adopted by the National Maritime Board. It consists of regulations and recommendations, of which the former for the first time compel owners of foreign-going ships to supply clean bedding, besides bunks, to a crew joining a ship. The men, on their side, accept the responsibility of keeping bunks and bedding clean and agree to the imposition of penalties for breaches of this regulation. The recommendations include the advice that the sleeping-quarters should be tidied daily in the men's own time and cleaned once a week, and the mess-rooms and lavatories cleaned daily in working-hours as part of the ship's routine; that the crew's quarters should be inspected daily by the master or his deputy and the result recorded weekly in the ship's log and daily in the owner's. Any sign of vermin should be instantly reported, and insecticides and disinfectants should be supplied. It is also recommended that in harbour the dynamo should not be stopped if it is needed for lighting or ventilating the mess-decks, and that every encouragement should be given to the men to look on their quarters as a "home from home." These regulations and recommendations apply to old ships as well as new.

The story of the very slow and very gradual improvement of the merchant seaman's lot on board British ships was outlined in our columns[2] when the Board of Trade instructions were last revised. It was then provided that in new ships the crew's quarters should be constructed amidships or aft

1. *Irish J. med. Sci.* April, 1939, p. 164.
2. *Lancet*, 1937, **2**, 809.